

Santa has his day in Port

BERND FRANKE
Postmedia Network

Santa Claus has been called many things, but Ian Dlubber isn't one of them.

At least not in Port Colborne.

North Pole's ambassador for generosity, for giving, for goodwill — and for being good, for goodness sakes — flexed his choppy water chops by steaming into Port Colborne on the tugboat Cooper Pilot.

Children lined festively decorated West Street, just south of the Clarence Street Bridge, for the Jolly Ol' Elf's much-anticipated arrival and the continuation of Christmas tradition dating back more than 20 years.

Indeed, Tugboat Santa, and in step with that the traditional serenaded walk down Charlotte Street to cookies and hot chocolate at Guild Hall, is nearly as old as holding a twilight parade through the downtown core.

"It seems like forever," John Mayne, 69, said when asked to recall when Port Colborne didn't have a night-time parade.

"That's what makes this parade so special, all the lights."

Mayne was one of four volunteers tasked with an unenviable assignment of judging the best floats in the 58-entry parade.

While the winners won't be announced officially until later in the week, the first-term Ward 1 councillor has already made up his mind.

"Everyone is good. Anyone who comes out to something like this is a winner in my books," Mayne said.

From a turnout featuring bunched up babies and preschoolers, many perched

on their father's shoulder, Port Colborne appeared much larger than a city of nearly 20,000. Both sides of Clarence Street were lined with people from just east of Steele Street to West Street, two to three deep in many sections of the downtown core.

"It's all because of the lights. The draw at Christmas is people driving admiring all the lights and decorations," said Michelle Cuthbert, marketing and communications co-ordinator for the City of Port Colborne.

"That what makes this parade so unique?"

A parade featuring marching bands from Lakeshore Catholic High School in Port Colborne, Notre Dame College School in Welland and, a perennial fan favourite, the West Seneca Marching Band from western New York needed 90 minutes to wind its way from Port Colborne High School to the parking lot across from city hall.

For Santa, the parade capped off a busy opening day of Port Colborne's annual Christmas Weekend. He started the day as guest of honour at a breakfast hosted by the Port Colborne Lions Club and spent the afternoon having his picture taken with children at Guild Hall.

Festivities wrapped up with the 40th annual Christmas festival at Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum.

Tugboat Santa and the meet-and-greet was organized by the Downtown Port Colborne Business Improvement Area, while the parade was put on by the City of Port Colborne.

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PHOTOS BY BERND FRANKE, POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A float recalling the first Christmas takes part in a twilight Santa Claus Parade Saturday night in Port Colborne.



Above: Santa Claus is serenaded by carolers as he walks down Charlotte Street from the southern terminus of the Welland Canal to Guild Hall.



Above right: According to this Port Colborne Santa Claus Parade float from Auto Know It, it was the Grinch and a hungry dinosauir who stole Christmas.



Right: Spectators lining Clarence Street in Port Colborne get up close and personal with a Shrine Club member riding in a little car in twilight.

John McDermott

"It's not really Christmas until McDermott sings."

—TORI HATHAWAY

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Taking a trip down Christmas memory lane

BERND FRANK
Postmedia Network

State-of-the-art cell pictures and tablets snapped and filmed high-definition videos of Brian Pihack indulging in his decidedly low-tech hobby. Blacksmithing.

For the past five years, the Niagara Falls chiropractor has volunteered to help Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum tell the story of how Upper Canada was forged.

While his actions heating soft steel to temperatures exceeding 2,300°F spoke louder than his words, the personable Pihack took the audience back in time with his engaging banter.

"Did you hear that?" he asked after a flint striker plunged into a pall of water made a sizzling sound.

"That's the same sound your skin will make if you

touch this stuff, but you will never hear it because you will be screaming so loud."

Pihack, whose fascination with the art of blacksmithing dates back nearly a decade, was assisted in the forge building at Sunday's 40th annual Grand Old Christmas Festival by Kyle Van Dillon.

A 21-year-old from Port Colborne who has been volunteering at his hometown museum "since I was old enough to walk," Van Dillon worked the bellows to fuel the flame in Pihack's forge with a constant supply of oxygen.

"This is quite a workout," Van Dillon said after a series of weightlifter-like movements with the wooden handle, only in reserve.

Casting Van Dillon in the role of the junior partner has a historical basis. Pihack said blacksmiths "back in the day" would take 12- to 14-year-olds under their wings as apprentices.

"The apprentices would be stoking the fire, while the blacksmith would take care of the precision work," he said.

Queues also formed outside of the blacksmith shop to watch Al Ursaky beat branding irons over a portable forge. When the temperature was high enough, Ursaky used the hand-crafted brand to burn an image into a section of freshly cut wood. This year's image was a tugboat with the date 2016.

Instead of leather lungs to supply air, Ursaky used a blower that he turned with a crank.

"This made it portable for people who went around with it for the job instead of always carrying a set of bellows," said the retired press operator at GM's Ontario Street plant in St. Catharines.



BERND FRANK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum volunteer Brian Pihack plunges super-heated soft steel into water during a blacksmithing demonstration.

See TRIP on A5

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The 500th anniversary of reformation

PASTOR MICHAEL WELCH
Faith & St. Peter's Lutheran
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October 31st, 1517 (500 years ago next Oct.) is a young professor at the University of Wittenberg, Germany, posted 95 theses on the university bulletin board (the church door).

The professor was Martin Luther, and he wanted to discuss with his fellow professors concerns he had with indulgence preachers who were traveling from village to town all over Germany. The preachers were saying that if a person bought an indulgence letter sanctioned by the Pope, then the person they bought the indulgence for would have less time suffering in purgatory, or, if the donation was large enough, they would immediately 'spring' out of purgatory and go straight to heaven.

Why are celebrations planned all over the world for 2017? Why mark the 500th Anniversary of this one little event? Professors are discussing all sort of things all over the world all the time, so why is this one so significant?

Instead of explaining the history (for more information go to www.reformation2017.ca), I think it would be helpful to dispel a few myths about the reformation and about Lutherans that I hope will help everyone have a better understanding of why it is such a great thing to celebrate.

Myth one: Luther nailed the 95 theses on the Wittenberg church door as an act of rebellion against the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church.

Truth: Luther wrote the theses in Latin so only the professors could read them. If he wanted to cause a stir and discuss it publicly, he would have written them in German. Against Luther's will, someone translated them into German, printed copies, and spread them all



The sun rises behind the Christ the Redeemer statue, above the Guanabara bay in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

over Germany. Also, several theses criticized the indulgence preachers because of their theatrical and terrifying preaching which scared people into buying indulgences. Luther wanted to discuss true repentance, forgiveness of sins and the actual intentions of the Pope in issuing these indulgences – it later came to light that the indulgence preachers were acting with the Pope's authority and according to his will. Luther did not think evil of the Pope, but tried to interpret his actions in the best, most biblical way.

Myth two: Luther wanted to break away from the Roman Catholic Church and start a new church.

Truth: The word 'reformation' itself makes it clear that the Luther and the Lutherans only had in mind correcting errors in the church, not start-

ing a new one. As I like to put it, Luther would never 'throw the baby out with the bath water', but wanted to keep the baby and toss out the kink that had been washed off the baby. The Roman Church's reaction to his theses and its unwillingness to discuss the problems sparked more discussion in Germany and around the world. Over the course of the previous 400 years or so, many errors and false teachings had crept into the Roman Catholic Church; Luther and others were concerned about it and wanted to consider everything in light of God's Word. Where there was contradiction, going against the scriptures, there needed to be reform to get back on track, back in line with God's Word. The main issue was a confusion of law and gospel, and really that there was very little gospel preach-

ing and teaching. Salvation by God's grace through faith as a pure gift of God was not being preached and taught. God was not seen as a loving Father, but as an angry judge. This led many in the church to despair.

Many other people, such as John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli, decided it was time to get rid of everything in the Roman Catholic Church and start from scratch. Luther was never like that. Why would one get rid of the biblical gifts of Christ such as baptism, absolution and the Lord's supper for the forgiveness of sins and say that they are simply 'ordinances' of dedication or remembrance? We should rather hold on to things that are true and clearly taught in God's holy word. Forgiveness does not come by indulgence letter, but it does come by the Holy Spirit working through

the specific gifts Jesus has given us – word and sacraments.

Myth three: Lutherans are Protestants. Lutherans are Roman Catholics. Lutherans are Anglicans.

Truth: In the beginning of the reformation Lutherans were thought of as Protestants because they protested the errors of the Roman Church, but for hundreds of years the term, 'Protestant', has referred to those who have had a wholesale rejection of the Roman Church's teachings, even the biblical parts. Lutherans have kept the baby. In other words, the true, biblical teachings in the Roman Catholic Church have been retained, but the man-made commandments and traditions that go against God's Word have been removed.

Sometimes Lutherans are seen as very Roman Catho-

lic because of our traditional, biblical liturgy, and understanding of baptism, absolution and the Lord's supper. Sometimes Lutherans are seen as similar to Anglicans in worship, but that's because Henry VIII, when he was creating the Anglican Church (the Church of England) took Lutheran liturgies as part of its worship. Really, Lutherans are neither Protestant nor Roman Catholic.

Myth four: All Lutherans are the same.

Truth: Just like all Roman Catholics aren't the same, and all Reformed or Baptists or Pentecostals or Presbyterians or Brethrens aren't the same, so it is true for the Lutherans. Just because a group uses the name 'Lutheran' doesn't mean they follow the biblical Lutheran beliefs and worship. Even as splits have happened in every denomination over doctrine (teaching), so it has happened in the Lutheran Church. Some remain faithful, and some have become 'modern' and changed their teaching to fit with the times.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

We believe God's holy Word is completely true and right for all people of all time because it is God's Word, not ours. It is God's Church, not ours. It is God's truth and salvation, not ours to do with as we please. That's why the confessed, traditional Lutheran churches have always struggled to maintain the one true Faith in the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in the one Christ who with His one perfect sacrifice on the cross gives forgiveness, life and salvation, comfort, peace and great joy which can only be found in His gift, in His Church, according to His word and will.

That's why the celebration of the Reformation is important. It's all about what our Saviour has done, does now and will continue to do for salvation, and how that works out in our lives.

The reformation was, and still is, all about Jesus.

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'The recipe is secret and it will stay a secret'

TRIP FROM A3

Portable blowers, which came into use around the turn-of-the-century, remained popular until the outset of the Second World War. He said the rapid industrialization required to supply the

war effort with materiel made them obsolete, "almost overnight."

Speaking of bellows — and hawking — Sunday's trip down memory lane had Port Colborne dentist Tom Pekar opening his mouth wide for

a change of pace. As the city's official town crier, Pekar, dressed in a circa 1760s uniform, had the pleasure of introducing a performance of the "soon to be Juno Award-winning McKay Public School choir."

The museum's annual Christmas Village event also featured demonstrations in making candles and decorations out of evergreen boughs, carriage rides, a chance to have a picture taken with Santa Claus and, of course, Arabella's

Team Room Christmas pudding.

Volunteers expected the 240 puddings available in the gift shop to sell out long before the four-hour event wrapped up.

"We always sell out," said Bea Kenny, a city councillor.

So what makes the tea room's specialty so special?

"The recipe is a secret, and it will stay a secret. Just write that in your article," Kenny said with a chuckle.

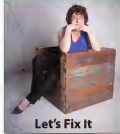
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RENO FRANKS/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Carriage rides around the block were among the activities people could enjoy at Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum.

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF ENBRIDGE GAS DISTRIBUTION INC., UNION GAS LIMITED AND NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Union Gas Limited and Natural Resource Gas Limited have each applied for approval to recover the costs associated with their cap and trade compliance plans. The costs of the proposed plans would raise natural gas rates by \$6 to \$7 on average per month starting January 1, 2017 for residential customers. The exact amount of the increase will depend on the amount of gas you use and on your gas utility. Other customers, including businesses, may also be affected.

Learn more. Have your say.

Under the Government of Ontario's new greenhouse gas emissions regulation each of Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Union Gas Limited and Natural Resource Gas Limited are required to develop plans to meet their cap and trade compliance obligations. New costs will be incurred by each of the natural gas utilities to comply with the regulations. The Ontario Energy Board will assess the cost-effectiveness of each of the cap and trade compliance plans filed by the natural gas utilities to determine whether the gas utilities can recover those costs in the rates they charge customers.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a combined public hearing to consider Enbridge Gas, Union Gas and Natural Resource Gas' requests. We will question each of the gas utilities on their cap and trade compliance plans and on each of their cases for a rate change to implement those plans. We will also hear questions and arguments from individual customers and from groups that represent Enbridge Gas, Union Gas and Natural Resource Gas' customers. The OEB will assess whether the compliance plans are cost-effective to determine whether the recovery of the cap and trade costs from customers is reasonable.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review each of Enbridge Gas, Union Gas and Natural Resource Gas' applications on the OEB's website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments at any time before the end of the OEB's hearing, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervener). Apply by January 9, 2017 or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

Our file numbers for this case is EB-2016-0300 (Enbridge Gas), EB-2016-0296 (Union Gas) and EB-2016-0300 (Natural Resource Gas). To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervener, or to access any document related to this case, please enter one of the three file numbers EB-2016-0300 (Enbridge Gas), EB-2016-0296 (Union Gas) and EB-2016-0300 (Natural Resource Gas) on the OEB website: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by January 9, 2017.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervener, all information will be public.

This hearing will be combined pursuant to section 21(5) and held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



Ontario Energy Board
Ontario Energy Board
Ontario Energy Board

Canal Days marine festival breaks even this year

Peter Senese, director of community and corporate services for the City of Port Colborne, called this year's Canal Days event "very successful."

He reported to city council last Monday night that the event wrapped up with a \$1,200 budget surplus.

Rural fire hall estimate put at \$1.6 million

Port Colborne councillors continued discussions last Monday about whether an additional fire hall is needed.

The matter had been discussed previously after fire Chief Tom Cartwright brought forward a report from the insurance underwriters suggesting another one should be built. Previously, council asked Cartwright to bring a report with dollar estimates and outlining what the hall would look like functionally, which he had for last Monday night.

The plan suggested a \$1.6-million hall. Cartwright said this amount would cover various components, such as purchasing land, building the structure, a vehicle and then personnel.

After discussion about considering automatic aid from Fort Erie and if the station would even be able to find volunteers to man it, council decided to move forward with exploring these issues.

Findings from this exploration will be discussed at a future council meeting.

IN
BRIEF

LED lights brighten Port Colborne

In April 2014, city council approved the conversion of all city street lights to LEDs, which are more energy-efficient.

The retrofitting program and conversion were completed in 2015 and have saved residents nearly 700,000 kilowatt-hours of energy and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 87 tonnes. Taylor Wilson, energy efficiency adviser for Canadian Niagara Power which had a hand in the project, told councillors last Monday.

Fire inspections of medical marijuana facilities urged

At last Monday night's city council meeting, Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters asked for medical marijuana facilities in Port Colborne to be added to the list for fire prevention and education programs.

Fire Chief Tom Cartwright said the grandfathered facilities are not within his authority to inspect because they fall under farming legislation.

Any future builds of medical marijuana establishments would, however, fall under commercial legislation and can be addressed in the city's bylaws.

The bylaw will be amended for next council meeting to include medical marijuana facilities as commercial operations so they can be inspected regularly for fire safety.

—Laura Barton, Tribuns Staff

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Also... thank you to all the special individuals who donated from their hearts, there are too many to mention you know who you are!





LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Habitat for Humanity Niagara chief executive officer Alastair Davis presents Port Colborne council with a plaque for the city's involvement and support for the organization's projects in the city. Acting mayor John Mayne accepts the plaque on the city's behalf.

Port Colborne Habitat project wins praise

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

A Port Colborne Habitat for Humanity project is garnering praise locally and across the nation.

Alastair Davis, chief executive officer of Habitat for Humanity Niagara, gave an update on the recent Port Colborne home and presented a plaque of appreciation to the city during last Monday night's council meeting.

Davis started by sharing about a home on Bell Street the organization renovated earlier this year for a local family.

"We're really here tonight to recognize the city, staff and the community who reached out and made it so possible for us earlier this year to provide a local Port Colborne family with a much needed, affordable home," he said.

The Bell Street home was a unique situation in that it was donated by the Miklosiks, another local family, and was a renovation project

instead of a build. Everything still worked in the house, but it needed to be brought up with the times.

"That passing of something from the '80s to 2016 was an amazing feeling for all of us that were there," Davis said.

He told council how the front lawn of the home was packed on that June day when the home was officially passed over to the Irene Cadot and her two sons.

Because of the city, several local businesses and organizations and the Miklosiks, Habitat was able to provide the Cadot family with a "safe, sustainable" home.

Cadot has told him she and her sons sleep better, are happier and more at ease in this new home, Davis said.

"Building a Habitat home does these things. It's different for every family, but I want you to really know that the work you did, and it was so much of it to help make this possible, has led to this taking place for this family."

This was the first home Habitat worked on in Port

Colborne and Davis said Habitat is grateful to the city for making it happen.

At national Habitat conferences, he said he talks about the city's involvement and eagerness to help and people are awed.

Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais said it has been wonderful to see the Cadot family thrive in the home and she is excited to be part of future builds, of which there are already talks.

Last year, the city also donated a plot of land on Mitchell Street.

Since the land was donated, Davis said it helps with some of the costs. The dollar figure to be raised for

this home is \$110,000 and Habitat is also in search of a family for the home.

He called finding a family "quite the process," but said, "We want to do it right. We want it to be a blessing for the family."

His bad business are already reaching out to be a part of the build again.

During the council meeting, Davis presented the city with a plaque of appreciation for its involvement and investment into Habitat for Humanity Niagara. He described the city as "a community of champions and leaders."

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LOCAL NEWS

Strategy aims to end youth homelessness

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

A strategy is in the works to help Niagara get ahead of the game and prevent youth homelessness before it occurs.

Niagara Region's homelessness services division is in the process of developing a strategy that targets youths aged 13 to 24 facing housing crises.

As youth homelessness is distinct from its adult counterpart, a separate plan is required to help tackle the issue in the community. Michael Lethby, executive director of The RAFT, told the public health and social services committee last Tuesday.

Many of the existing supports available to youths have been developed to mimic the adult system, but recent research has shown change to that approach is needed in order to make an impact.

"To equate them to an adult, there's an obvious difference," Lethby said, with the brains and personalities of adolescents still developing and their life experience at a minimum.

"To some degree, they have less rights than adults. They're not allowed to leave home without certain permissions legally. This really affects how they can work their way through the system."

The first national youth homelessness study, Without a Home, was recently completed and will be used to help shape the strategy developed locally.

"I'm happy to say Niagara was a large contributor to that study," Lethby said, with more than 50 of the 1,100 surveyed youths coming from the region. Youths in 47 communities across Canada were included.

See STRATEGY on A8



GETTY IMAGES

LOCAL NEWS

Drug dealers have had better reach to youth

STRATEGY from AB

The study identified that young people aged 13 to 24 make up 20 per cent of the homeless population across Canada and 20.9 per cent of the homeless population in Niagara.

Of the survey's respondents, 40.1 per cent were under the age of 16 when they first experienced homelessness.

It's a startling and important figure, Lethby said, because many youth services in Niagara are only available to those 16 and older.

"There's quite a bit of a gap. There's a three-year gap from when actual youth homelessness starts and when we have traditionally been delivering services at 16."

The survey also indicated youths experience a high degree of instability and victimization, with 75.8 per cent experiencing multiple episodes of homelessness and 68.7 per cent admitting to being the victim of a crime.

Of young women surveyed, 37.4 per cent experienced sexual assault in the previous 12 months.

The way the current system is designed, the two local youth shelters are in Niagara's largest urban centres, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. To access those homelessness services, teens living in other communities must make their way to those municipalities.

Much of the abuse that occurs can happen during the transfer time between becoming homeless and accessing help, Lethby said.

"Go down to any of the bus terminals and watch kids get off the bus. You can tell with no experience which kids are from town and which aren't," he told counsellors.

"The thing is, for the longest time, drug dealers, pimps and predators have had much better outreach than we have. They will go to these places where they know youth are coming and they will trap them."

Those teens often have no one to talk to and don't know where they're going, Lethby said.

"They're very valuable to these people because they don't have criminal records. They're not known

(to police)."

In some cases, they're enrolled in schools in order to sell drugs.

Schools will play a significant role in the local strategy's development.

Nearly every youth that

has accessed RAFT services was in high school immediately before becoming homeless.

That provides an advantage, Lethby said, as it tells staff where youths are immediately before they're

in crisis.

"The kids are in schools and unlike the shelter system, schools are in all our communities. That creates an infrastructure we can help adapt to use in the homelessness plan."

According to the recent study, more than half of youths surveyed dropped out of school, yet nearly 74 per cent indicated they hoped to return.

See STRATEGY on A19

Free adult event for ages 16+

I'M DREAMING OF A

CRAFTY

CHRISTMAS

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Angus Scott returns to Niagara as editor-in-chief

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

There's a familiar face at the helm of Niagara newspapers.

Angus Scott has been named the new editor-in-chief of the *Niagara Falls Review*, *St. Catharines Standard* and *Welland Tribune*, effective Monday.

The Toronto native spent nearly ten years at the *Dumfriesville Chronicle* before joining the news team at the *Welland Tribune* in 2004.

He was the managing editor at *The Tribune* from 2007 until 2013, when he moved to Postmedia Editorial Services in Hamilton.

The 54-year-old is looking forward to returning to Niagara and reacquainting himself with news room staff.

"I've been in Niagara for over a decade and I know that the people working on these papers are dedicated and



BOB TYMCZYK/IN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Angus Scott has been named the new editor-in-chief of the *Niagara Falls Review*, *St. Catharines Standard* and *Welland Tribune*.

hardworking, some I'm proud to have worked with before and I'm looking forward to working with them again."

He's also looking forward to engaging readers by focussing on issues facing the region.

"The goal of newspapers is always to inform, entertain

and to become a part of people's daily lives," he said.

"Angus never really left the Niagara area, maintaining his home while working in Hamilton," said Gerry Nott, senior vice-president of content with Postmedia.

"He's stayed informed and

engaged in all of the issues of the region, loves the community and will produce quality journalism in the long tradition of the *Standard, Tribune* and *Review*."

Mark Cressman, regional director of contracts with

Postmedia, said it is exciting to have someone with "such vast local experience at the helm."

"We are happy to have Angus on board to continue our transformation," he said.

Scott takes over from Peter Conradi, who has accepted a new role as managing editor at a newspaper in New Brunswick.

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LOCAL NEWS

Impaired driver with 10 convictions granted delay

TONY RICCIUTO
Postmedia Network

It's the same excuse James Meaghe gave the judge two months ago — and was granted an extension — which delayed him being sent off to jail for his 10th impaired driving-related conviction.

Meaghe, 64, of Niagara Falls is looking at a possible jail sentence ranging from 12 to 18 months.

Last Wednesday, Meaghe appeared in an Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines in front of Judge Peter Wilkie and asked for a further extension because he needs more time to try and store his property.

In early October, Meaghe appeared in court and was expected to be sentenced at that time, but he asked the judge for an extension because he needed to put some of his property in storage before he's sent off to jail for a considerable amount of time.

That's the same excuse he provided the court last Wednesday, adding he's on a fixed income and is still trying to make some type of arrangement to store some of his belongings. Meaghe said he can't afford to pay for a storage unit and is hoping to find a friend who will hold onto his property until he's released from jail.

Meaghe was involved in a motor vehicle accident in July 2015 near the intersection of Morrison Street and Chrysler Avenue in Niagara Falls. He was operating a Super-M excavator and was involved in an accident with a van.

A 32-year-old woman from Welland, who was six months pregnant, was driving the van. There were no serious injuries, but the woman was taken to hospital for observation because of her condition.

On June 23, Meaghe appeared in court and entered a guilty plea to the impaired driving charge from last year,

which turned out to be his 10th conviction for impaired driving-related offences.

He was banned from driving in 2007 after his ninth conviction.

He was an unlicensed driver and had been prohibited from driving in 1969. He has been prohibited from driving six times and has been suspended for life.

Assistant Crown attorney Linda Scaringi said Meaghe has had nearly six months since entering his guilty plea and this case "needs to be dealt with sooner than later."

The Crown is seeking a jail sentence in the range of 15 to 18 months, while the defence is recommending a 12-month sentence.

The judge adjourned the matter to Feb. 10, adding he didn't think the public will be put at risk while Meaghe remains at large.

triculo@postmedia.com

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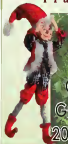
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Niagara Whalers Jr. A Hockey Team

The first place Niagara Whalers defeated the London Lakers 9 - 4 Friday night in GMHL hockey action in Port Colborne.

The first period was even, each team scored a goal led off by London's Zach Perry at 13:11, assisted by Matt Michelini and Mike Tuffin. Niagara's Matt Johns tied it up late in the first at 18:23, assisted by Nikita Chekardin and Paolo Sivittini.

The second period had the Whalers outscore the Lakers 4 - 2 giving them the 5-3 lead. Tyler Hore led off the scoring on the power play for the Whalers at 0:34, assisted by Manny Manns. Matt Johns added his second of the night at 2:56, assisted by Nikita Chekardin and Zack Lanstfield. Masterson Jesse added a point for the Whalers at 6:46, assisted by Andrew Robinson and Nikita Chekardin. London's Matthew Cameron scored on the power play at 11:48, assists to Regan Yew and Filip Valvo. David Christopher scored for the Whalers at 13:59, assisted by Tyler Jackson and Jacob Thomason. London's Tyson Levesque scored on the power play at 16:28, assisted by Regan Yew and Robin Yew.

In the third period the Whalers out scored the Lakers 4 - 1 to give them the 9 - 4 win. Travis Valvo added his first point at 3:46, assisted by Zack Lanstfield and Andrew Roblanston. Valvo scored again at 6:55, assisted by Brandon Cercone. London's Matthew Cameron added another point for the Lakers at 7:06, assisted by Scott Goodman and Regan Yew. Niagara's Brandon Cercone scored on the power play at 16:16, assisted by David Christopher. Oskar Levin added a goal on the penalty shot at 17:51.

The Niagara Whalers will be at home Friday Dec. 9th 7:30pm to take on the North York Renegades at the Vale Health and Wellness Center.



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LOCAL NEWS

Niagara focussing on prevention rather than cure

STRATEGY from A9

"Without education, we're basically condemning a large portion of this population to subsistence living for the rest of their lives," Lethby said. "If you don't have a high school education, chances are you're not going to be earning an income that you can support yourself or your family on."

The intention is to reach teens in school long before

they reach that crisis point, said Cathy Cousins, the Region's director of homelessness services.

The new strategy must focus more on prevention and less on emergency supports, as the latter won't be needed if prevention is done correctly, she said.

While school-based programs exist today, Niagara is enhancing those efforts by introducing the upstream model, originally developed

in Australia.

York Region and Niagara will be the provincial pilot projects for the initiative, working with school boards to identify at-risk youths.

The local Catholic and public school boards will each select at least one school for the project.

An assessment tool will be used to establish each student's vulnerability to homelessness and, where necessary, supports will

be introduced to address related issues "long before that crisis piece hits," Cousins said.

"Australia had incredible success with this," Cousins said. Additional supports are also in the works, including a strategy to leverage broader family ties to aid in challenging times.

"The recidivism rate, if you start into this cycle and adapt to living on the streets at that age, will be in

and out of the emergency shelter and homelessness program for the rest of your life," Cousins said. "This is our chance to catch it early."

A youth homelessness steering committee is being formed to help develop the strategy, including early intervention initiatives. It will include representation from community agencies, child protection services and social services, but

also from schools, policing, corrections, businesses and landlords.

The strategy will be funded in part through provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative dollars.

The full Without a Home study is available at homelesshub.ca/YouthWithoutHome.

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THE NIAGARA FALLS
REVIEW

The Standard

THE TRIBUNE

Dr. Andrew Taylor passes 100,000 mark in procedures

Lasik ProVision is the Niagara Peninsula's only comprehensive refractive centre which deals with the treatment of common visual disorders. The centre was founded in its current location in 1999 and has evolved to a state of the art refractive centre with a global reputation for the laser correction



Dr. Andrew Taylor

of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It is a world leader in bringing the treatment of Zeiss Laser Blended Vision for the treatment of presbyopia "reading glasses vision" to North America. In addition, the centre specializes in the treatment of cataracts and corneal disorders such as keratoconus.

Founder and medical director, Dr. Andrew W. Taylor, is one of North America's leading ophthalmologists in the use of excimer lasers in refractive surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1991 and went on to complete a specialty residency in ophthalmology, also at the University of Toronto. He then went on to complete subspecialty training

in corneal and refractive disorders. He has completed over 100,000 refractive procedures including lasik, photorefractive keratectomy and cataract surgery to date. In addition to his directorship role at Lasik ProVision, Dr. Taylor is an active staff member of The Niagara Health System in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Lasik ProVision has evolved in its current location from its original incarnation as Lasik Vision, which brought affordable lasik eye surgery to North America. Dr. Taylor restructured Lasik Vision in 2001 as a founding principal and owner of Lasik MD, which then went on to expand refractive clinics across Canada. In 2005, Dr. Taylor left Lasik MD to focus on more customized patient eyecare. In addition to his base clinic in Niagara Falls, he underwent an international expansion to London, England, Brussels, Belgium and the United States. Currently, in addition to his work in Niagara Falls, Dr. Taylor is involved in the development of a comprehensive ophthalmic centre in Toronto.

"What is exciting now in refractive laser eye surgery is the safety of the procedure and the range of treatment options now available for patients. It is rare that a patient cannot benefit from refractive surgery" says Dr. Taylor. "The greatest development in recent years has been the use of the femtosecond laser for the creation of the flap upon which the lasik procedure is based. Not only does this create a thinner and more uniform flap which leads to better optical outcomes, it alleviates the need for a blade and cutting microkeratome which was for many patients the biggest hurdle preventing them from having refractive lasik surgery. The safety factor is so great, I no longer utilize the microkeratome blade in lasik eye surgery".

Dr. Taylor has extensive experience on several laser platforms. "While we started with the Bausch and Lomb platform in 1999, the industry has moved forward to provide greater customization for the unique optical errors of each individual patient. At Lasik ProVision, we currently and exclusively use the Carl Zeiss Meditec MEL 80 platform with the VisuMax femtosecond laser. "This platform in my belief delivers the optimal reshaping of the cornea to maintain the natural corneal shape for optimal optical correction and customization. Zeiss laser Blended Vision is unique in the treatment of presbyopia or "reading glasses vision". It is the only excimer laser platform that predictably increases the range of vision so patients can see at near, intermediate and far without the loss of stereovision. This is truly exciting. Previously, and on other laser platforms, we could only treat with monovision with one eye corrected for far and one eye corrected for distance. This left patients with a loss of intermediate vision and reduced stereoacuity. It worked, but Zeiss Laser Blended Vision works so much better."

What is the future of refractive surgery? "The future is continuing to refine the refractive outcome with ever safer and less invasive procedures. I am very excited that within the next year, we will begin to fully utilize the femtosecond laser's potential, going beyond the creation of better flaps to conducting the entire laser procedure within the cornea without a flap. This may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality and I am honoured that Zeiss has chosen to partner with Lasik ProVision in Niagara Falls to bring this technology to North America. To obtain additional information or to book your FREE consultation please contact our refractive counselors at 1-888-510-2020 or 905-371-3217 You may visit our website at www.lasikprovision.com

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